Fred Bock, MMR (1945–2012)

The NMRA's Assistant Education Department Manager and Master Model Railroader, Fredrick M. Bock, IV, passed away on May 29, 2012, at age 66, just two months after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Born October 10, 1945, in Bronxville, New York, Fred loved railroads from his earliest memory, living next to the New York Central tracks and playing with a Lionel train given to him by his grandparents. By age 14, Fred was reading Frank Ellison and becoming a "scale" modeler. At age 15, Fred's family moved to California, where he once begged his grandfather to stop at John Allen's home while traveling through Monterey. Fred recalled they were warmly invited inside for a tour of John's railroad. Fred earned his Eagle Scout, joined his first model railroad club (Eastbay Society of Model Railroaders) and, in 1971, graduated from the University of California at Berkley with a Bachelor's Degree and an ROTC commission as an Army Bio-Medical Officer.

Fred first joined the NMRA in 1972 while stationed at Natick, Massachusetts, where he also earned a Masters Degree from the University of New Hampshire and was a member of the University Model Railroad club. He also served at Walter Reed Hospital where he was in charge of Information Systems and at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Texas and retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In San Antonio, Fred began a second career as a professor at the University of the Incarnate Word and was an active member of every rail history and model railroad group in the city including: The Alamo Model Railroad Association and Museum, the San Antonio N-track Association (SANTRAK), and the San Antonio Model Railroad Association (SAMRA), where he developed the club's first web presence and held a number of offices. He authored SAMRA's 501(c)3 status and helped oversee the construction of the Bob Clarke Rail Heritage Museum. He served as a director of the Lone Star Region NMRA Division 6 for many years, and earned NMRA Master Model Railroader No. 361.

Fred's Army experience, his Ph.D. and teaching experience, along with his scouting experience as an Eagle Scout and raising two sons in scouting, and of course his status as an MMR made Fred a perfect choice for his appointment in 2003 as the NMRA's Assistant Education Department Fred a perfect choice for his appointment in 2003 as the NMRA's Assistant Education Department Manager. In that capacity, he assisted with the NMRA's Boy Scout programs and monitored web chat/blogs to assist with the Scouts, the Achievement Program, Contests, Clinics, and other Education Department Activities. Fred was also instrumental in developing a relationship with the growing number of excellent model railroaders in Mexico, frequently visiting conventions and serving as the NMRA's liaison to that group. At the time of his death, Fred was gathering model railroading lesson plans from divisions and regions and planning to develop an NMRA Model Railroading 101 education program.

Fred's wife, Martha (Marty), requested that memorial contributions may be made to the "NMRA in Memory of Fred Bock," National Model Railroad Association, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421, or to the "Wounded Warriors Project," 12627 Silicon Drive, Suite 105, San Antonio, TX 78249. Fred's extensive background with education and model railroading will be missed. Fred is being awarded the NMRA meritorious service award and the President's award as a token of the NMRA's appreciation for his service.